

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraph [0001] as follows:

[0001] The invention relates to a method and a device for the automated application of paint film to bodywork parts. The invention starts from the applicant's earlier patent application, which has not been published before the date of the present application, according to German laid-open publication DE 102 30 034 A1. ~~A method therefrom which is regarded as known is reproduced in the preamble of claim 1 and a corresponding device is reproduced in the preamble of claim 12.~~ A method for the automated application of a self-adhesive paint film to a bodywork part secured in a defined position using a freely programmable industrial robot provided with an application tool, which paint film is held ready in the form of a multi-layered film composite in a defined position in the working region of the industrial robot for picking up into the application tool by means of suction grippers is regarded as known. In this method a protective strip, which is on the adhesive side and is provided with a contact piece attached on the end side, is grasped at the contact piece, is removed from the film section, which is held taut, and its adhesive side is thus exposed. Furthermore, in this method the paint film section, which is held taut, is aligned in a precise position above the bodywork part to be covered, at a small distance from it, and, from the visible side of the paint film, with the paint film held in a fixed position over the bodywork part to be covered, is pressed progressively onto the bodywork part from the spaced-apart, taut position owing to a line of application moving over said paint film. Also regarded as known is a device for the automated application of self-adhesive paint film to a bodywork part secured in a defined position.

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0002]:

BACKGROUND

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0006]:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please amend paragraph [0006] as follows:

[0006] It is an ~~the~~ object of the invention to improve a method taken as the basis according to the generic type and the corresponding device to the effect that even large and/or curved paint film sections and/or three-dimensionally curved surfaces can readily be applied and/or covered in a manner free from creasing, that the robotic tool remains within justifiable limits with regard to weight, structural outlay and costs, and that despite the unavoidable structural size, the mobility of the robot is not unreasonably affected.

Please delete paragraph [0007].

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0009]:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please amend paragraph [0009] as follows:

[0009] ~~Expedient refinements of the invention can be gathered from the subclaims; furthermore, the~~ The invention is ~~also~~ explained below with reference to various exemplary embodiments illustrated in the drawings, in which:

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0020]:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please amend the heading on top of page 16 with the following amended heading:

~~Patent claims~~ WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: